

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1204
TO BE ANSWERED ON 09.02.2024

SCHEMES FOR EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN IN BACKWARD AREAS

1204. SHRI MAHESH SAHOO:

Will the Minister of Women and Child Development be pleased to state:

- (a) the initiatives taken by the Government to empower the women in backward areas across the country particularly in the State of Odisha indicating the pace of development observed in this field;
- (b) whether the Government has faced any hurdle in implementing the women empowerment initiatives, if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the initiatives that are being presently taken in this regard in Angul and Dhenkanal districts?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT
(SHRIMATI SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI)

(a) to (c) : The Government gives utmost priority to the safety, security and empowerment of women across the country including backward areas. The Government has adopted a multi-pronged approach to address all issues relating to women on a life-cycle continuum basis for their educational, social, economic and political empowerment, so that they become equal partners in fast paced and sustainable national development.

For better implementation and efficient monitoring, all Centrally Sponsored Schemes of the Ministry being implemented in the country for the welfare of women and children, have been clubbed into three verticals, viz. (1) Mission Shakti, for safety, protection and empowerment of women; (2) Saksham Anganwadi & Poshan 2.0 for improving nutrition indicators in the country; and (3) Mission Vatsalya, for protection and welfare of children. The details of the schemes are as under:

(i) Mission Shakti: The 'Mission Shakti' aims at strengthening interventions for women safety, security and empowerment. It seeks to realise the Government's commitment for "women-led development" by addressing issues affecting women on a life-cycle continuum basis and by making them equal partners in nation-building through convergence and citizen-ownership. It seeks to focus on proposing strategies for improving convergence across Ministries/ Departments and at different levels of governance. It also seeks to promote greater participation and support of Panchayats and other local level governance bodies, apart from strengthening digital infrastructure support, last mile tracking and Jan Sahabhagita.

Mission Shakti comprises of two sub-schemes 'Sambal' and 'Samarthya' for safety and security of women and empowerment of women respectively. The existing schemes of One Stop Centres (OSC), Women Helplines (181-WHL) and Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP) have been made part of Sambal sub- scheme; while the existing schemes of Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY), Ujjwala, Swadhar Greh (renamed as Shakti Sadan) and Working Women Hostel (renamed as Sakhi Niwas), National Creche Scheme (renamed as Palna) have been subsumed in 'Samarthya' and a new component of Gap Funding for Economic Empowerment i.e. Hub for Empowerment of Women (HEW) has been added in the Samarthya Scheme with the aim to facilitate inter-sectoral convergence of schemes and programs meant for women at the Central, State/ UT and District levels for creating an environment in which women are able to realize their full potential. The support under the HEW provides for guiding, linking and hand holding women to various institutional and schematic set ups for their empowerment and development including access to healthcare, quality education, career and vocational counseling/ training, financial inclusion, entrepreneurship, backward and forward linkages, health and safety for workers, social security and digital literacy at districts/ Blocks/ Gram Panchayats level across the country.

(ii) Saksham Anganwadi & Poshan 2.0 (Mission Poshan 2.0): Under this programme, Anganwadi Services Scheme, POSHAN Abhiyaan and Scheme for Adolescent Girls has been reorganized into 3 primary verticals: (i) Nutrition Support for children below the age of 6 years, Pregnant Women, Lactating Mothers and Adolescent Girls (14 -18 years); (ii) Early Childhood Care and Education [3-6 years] and (iii) Anganwadi Infrastructure including modern, upgraded Saksham Anganwadis.

(iii) Mission Vatsalya: Mission Vatsalya has subsumed Integrated Child Protection Scheme(ICPS) for better outreach and protection for children in need and care in a mission mode with the objective to: (i)Support and sustain Children in difficult circumstances (ii) Develop context-based solutions for holistic development of children from varied backgrounds (iii) Provide scope for green field projects for encouraging innovative solutions (iv) Cement convergent action by gap funding, if required.

Among these schemes being run by the Ministry, the components of Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY), Palna and Hub for Empowerment of Women (HEW) of Samarthya, sub-scheme of 'Mission Shakti' are not implemented by the State of Odisha. However, 30 One Stop Centres are functional, across the State of Odisha including in Angul and Dhenkanal districts, which have assisted 21891 women till 30.09.2023. 12 Sakhi Niwas are operational in Odisha, one each in Angul and Dhenkanal whereas 68 Shakti Sadan are operational in Odisha including 5 in Angul and 3 in Dhenkanal districts.
